

Basingstoke Observer

Thursday, December 21 - Wednesday, December 27, 2017

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FREE TAKE ONE

Firefighters help spread Christmas joy hosting a lunch for the elderly

By Eva Astreinidou

FIREFIGHTERS proved it is not just emergency calls they respond to as they hosted a large Christmas lunch for the elderly who are facing the festive season on their own.

More than 70 people over the age of 60 enjoyed the meal hosted by staff at Tadley fire station on Saturday to celebrate the festive season with company.

Proving the staff do a lot more than putting out fires, a meal consisting of turkey, all the traditional trimmings, as well as Christmas pudding, was cooked and served.

Speaking about the inspiration behind the event, now in its second year, station manager Gary Blackman, said: "When we were told by one of the residents that it was a lonely time of the year we felt we could and should do something to help out."

The crew worked above and beyond, preparing some of the food the night before at home.

On the day, it took a total of about four hours of further prep and cooking at the venue.

Along with a delicious and warm meal, the guests also enjoyed a rather

• Continues on page 3

An out-of-this-galaxy experience for hospital staff



Basingstoke hospital staff Kofi Quartey, Dr Tanuj Lad and Rosie Dicks pose with a Storm Trooper at the Star Wars premiere in London last week. See inside for full story



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Share views on how to improve Top of the Town

BASINGSTOKE residents are invited to have their say on how their town can be an even better place to visit.

People can visit an online platform where they can post ideas and vote for what they would like to see in the Top of The Town in the evenings.

A council spokesperson said: "All ideas, big or small, are welcome and could include suggestions of different entertainment or events held in the area, bars or restaurants. People are being encouraged to think about how the area generally could be improved in this historic part of town."

Cabinet member for housing, regeneration, arts and heritage Cllr Terri Reid said: "Your ideas will help us to form a good picture of how we can make the space even better for everyone."

To help shape the future of the area, visit lovebasingstoke.dialogue-app.com.

Celebrating Austen's birthday

A WORLD-RENOWNED author who made her mark on Basingstoke's history was commemorated last week.

Maria Miller MP joined the Basingstoke and Deane Jane Austen Group as they marked her birthday at a ceremony on the site of a new sculpture outside the Willis Museum.

Phil Howe, group member, who runs Hidden Britain Tours, led the ceremony with a few words about the author and her famous works written while she lived in the borough.

Mrs Miller said: "It is wonderful to think that Jane Austen walked across this market square which is now home to a permanent memorial to her."

"It seemed fitting that we came to pay tribute to her on her birthday and lay flowers at the foot of the sculpture and I am certain it will become an annual tradition. I am incredibly encouraged that the 'Basingstoke Jane Austen' as the sculpture is now called, has been warmly received by both residents and visitors."



Maria Miller MP joined members of the Jane Austen group to mark what would have been the author's birthday on December 16

Cleaning up on air quality

By Eva Astreinidou

CLEAN air is a top priority for Basingstoke and Deane.

Borough councillor Hayley Eachus is set to outline an action plan to help tackle the issue of air pollution in the area next month.

The cabinet member for regulatory services and the environment said work to review and assess air quality within the district is taken 'very seriously'.

Last month, a report suggested that five areas of Basingstoke exceed the legal limit with high levels of nitrogen

dioxide particles found in the air.

Following the results, some councillors said the way the issue was dealt with was 'disappointing'.

But Cllr Eachus said: "Each year the council prepares an air quality report. These findings show air quality in the borough is generally very good."

This comes after the release of a report by the Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN), which found particularly high levels of nitrogen dioxide around Thornycroft roundabout, Eastrop roundabout and Roman Road.

Cllr Eachus added: "The BTN monitoring was only carried out for one month at roadside locations where readings will be higher."

"However, we recognise there are areas that can be improved on. We are keen to work with BTN and have already met with them to discuss this report and future actions."

In the motion put forward by Cllr Eachus, the plan is to commit to implementing a better system for the monitoring of air quality to ensure the borough's residents enjoy 'an excellent quality of life'.

Speaking last month, coun-

cillor Paul Harvey for Norden ward, said: "It's really disappointing but I don't believe the issue has truly been on the radar for the borough council."

"This is not an issue that is going to go away because we are dealing with a lot of growth in our area."

Aside from the five key areas, their report showed that air pollution levels in another four places were so close to the maximum levels that it is almost certain that on some days air pollution limits are being breached.

It is now due to be discussed on January 17.

News Bites

Six arrested after man, 18, mugged

SIX people have been arrested after an 18-year-old man was mugged near Festival Place.

Police are appealing for witnesses after the incident on December 9.

The 18-year-old man had £40 stolen after being approached by three people in Wote Street, near to the Festival Place entrance, between 5.15pm and 6.30pm.

Four people from Basingstoke, a 45-year-old man, a 19-year-old woman, a 30-year-old man and a 32-year-old man, were arrested on suspicion of robbery.

They have been released from custody but remain under investigation.

Two people, a 37-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman, both from Basingstoke, have also been arrested on suspicion of robbery and are currently in police custody.

If you can help, call 101.

Store cash stolen

THREE men have been arrested after cash was taken from a store in Basingstoke.

Police are appealing for information following the incident on December 8.

At around 6.15am cash was stolen after two men entered the Martin's store in Abbey Road, Popley.

A 43-year-old man from Basingstoke was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit robbery.

A 29-year-old man and a 32-year-old man, also from Basingstoke, were arrested on suspicion of robbery.

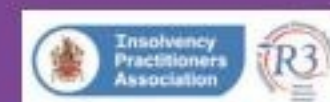
All three men have been released from custody pending investigation.

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'Bus route cuts are about lives not numbers'

By Eva Astreimidou

PEOPLE are fighting 'draconian' measures that could cut several bus services in Basingstoke and Deane.

Campaigner John McKay has launched a petition to reverse the proposals put forward last month by Hampshire County Council in its latest package of budget cuts.

The new measures could remove subsidised funding for four of the services in the borough, including the number 12 bus.

Mr McKay said: "I've lived in Grove for over 20 years and was alarmed to hear that local people might lose the only bus service that serves Black Dam and Cranbourne. I knew of a local elderly couple neither of whom is medically able to drive. The No 12 bus is a lifeline to a clinic they need to attend. It's a story like this that moves the matter from numbers to real lives."

The number 12 bus links Hatch Warren to the town centre, passing through Brighton Hill, Cranbourne, Black Dam and Eastrop along the way.

Stagecoach, which operates the route, has confirmed it will no longer be able to continue the service without a subsidy.

Gavin James, leader of the Lib Dems

on the council, said: "Local residents rely on the number 12 bus to get them to town, to doctors' surgeries, to work and to see friends and family. It's an essential public service."

County councillor Rob Humby, executive member for environment and transport, said the council has worked alongside bus operators for a long time.

But he added that due to 'unfunded pressure' and growing needs in children's and adult social care, the council has had to look at spending across all services.

He said: "No final decisions have yet been made and I will be inviting senior representatives from the bus companies to a further meeting to discuss what opportunities we have to maintain the current broad patterns of bus usage while finding the necessary savings."

"While I appreciate the number 12 in Basingstoke links a number of communities, most areas are reasonably well served by alternative commercial services, such as the number 8 in Hatch Warren and the number 1 in Brighton Hill."

Mr Humby added there would be a public consultation into any changes.

To sign the petition, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ybkaungp>.



Rosie Dicks, actress Kelly-Marie Tran and Dr Tanuj Lad at the premiere

Hospital stars on red carpet

THREE lucky hospital employees got the chance to rub shoulders with the stars as they walked the red carpet alongside storm troopers and Luke Skywalker.

Project manager Kofi Quartey, staff nurse Rosie Dicks and Dr Tanuj Lad, a consultant in acute medicine, who all work at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, travelled to the Royal Albert Hall for the premiere of Star Wars: The Last Jedi.

The hospital was invited to send three representatives to the European premiere by the Royal Foundation, as a thank you for the work done with the Step into Health programme, which helps servicemen and women to find jobs outside of the armed forces.

Mr Quartey, who served in the army

before joining the NHS, played a vital role in bringing the Step into Health programme to Hampshire hospitals.

Ms Dicks served as an army reservist and Dr Lad offered placements to a number of servicemen and women through the scheme.

Speaking about the out-of-this-galaxy experience, Dr Lad said: "It was a fantastic evening and a real once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the three of us."

"We all really enjoyed what was an amazing experience."

The lucky trio mixed with some of the stars of the film, including John Boyega and Kelly-Marie Tran, before being among the first people in Europe to watch the latest instalment of the Star Wars franchise.

Six injured in five-car crash

TWO children were taken to hospital in Basingstoke after a collision involving five vehicles in North Warnborough.

A total of six people were involved in the crash on Tuesday morning.

Emergency services responded to the incident just after 8am.



Two of the vehicles involved in the crash on Tuesday morning

Picture: @Rushmoor02

One man, who was mechanically released from his car, sustained minor injuries, with three women being assessed at the scene and treated for minor injuries.

The two children were taken to Basingstoke hospital to be assessed, but there were no obvious signs of injury to either of them.

Three ambulances from South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), the air ambulance rapid response car, an officer in a rapid response vehicle and one vehicle from the Hazardous Area Response Team also attended.

Have your say online



Firefighters' Christmas gift to the elderly

From front page

tropical soundtrack with a live performance from a local ukelele band.

Showing true community spirit, the guests also pooled money to raise £170 as a donation to the firefighters charity.

Speaking about why the crew decided to repeat the event, Mr Blackman said: "Last year's event was so well received, we decided to run it again this year and increase the guest quota."

He said the team hope to host more than 100 people for next year's event.

Ryan Thurman, group commander at Tadley fire station, said: "To grow [the event] this year and to already be making plans for an even bigger event next year just shows how dedicated the crew are."

"Having been there myself this year to see the guests having so much fun and to hear how grateful they are, makes me proud of the team I work with. They really are

fantastic ambassadors for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service."

During the event, other teams within the fire and rescue service were also there to talk about winter safety, to help avoid trips and falls as the cold weather is setting in.

Local organisations Helping Hands, Loddon Valley Lions, Chappell Building Services, Tadley RAOB and staff from AWE and SM John Amos & sons also took part in putting the event together.

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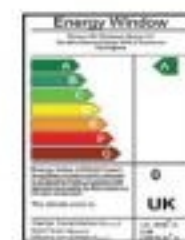
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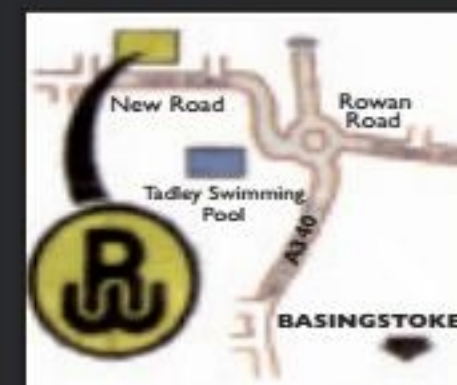

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Book opens new chapter on events

A LIMITED edition book capturing successful local events celebrating the life of Jane Austen is now on sale.

The memento is a culmination of several fundraising events throughout the year which helped raise cash for Basingstoke-based Ark Cancer Centre Charity.

These included a BookBench trail during the summer months, in which people were invited to sit outdoors and enjoy a good book while celebrating the life of the much-loved author.

Following the successful campaign, the benches were then sold in a charity auction, raising £95,750 – with 75 per cent of the proceeds going to the charity to help fund a new cancer treatment centre.

The limited edition 500-print run is a joint venture between Destination Basingstoke and Festival Place.

Steven Connolly, chairman of Destination Basingstoke and centre director of Festival Place, said: "Sitting With Jane brought together our community as part of a fantastic summer, attracting thousands of visitors, generating income for our local economy, making our community proud of its heritage and delivering a great result for a local charity."



Some of the Sitting With Jane book team and bookbench owners at the launch of the souvenir book at The Discovery Centre
Picture: Grace Jeffreys, The Typeface Group



Costing only a Jane Austen, otherwise known as £10, the book will be another source of fundraising that will contribute towards a £5million target for the charity's new centre to be completed. For more information, visit <http://bookbench.org/>.

'Give police resources to fight crime in area'

By Eva Astreimidou

POLICE officers on the frontline must be given the right level of resources following a recent spate of attacks in the town.

Basingstoke MP Maria Miller met Minister of State for Policing Nick Hurd to underline the importance of having resources available to tackle crime.

A spate of 'concerning behaviour' including anti-social behaviour has led her to say residents are asking for reassurance that the right support is given.

She said: "Basingstoke Police have tackled these problems successfully in the past. It's important that frontline policing resources are available and focussed on tackling crime, to keep our town a safe and welcoming place to visit. "The police need to make sure

frontline policing is a clear priority in the north of the county so we send a clear message that Basingstoke doesn't tolerate criminal behaviour."

This comes as Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Michael Lane asked for residents' views on a potential increase in council tax to contribute more towards the cost of local policing.

Police funding is made up of a national grant from Government, which accounts for two thirds of the total, and council tax – which accounts for the other third.

According to Mr Lane, Government has said it will ensure police forces receive the same amount of money as they did last year but have made it a condition that a minimum contribution is required from the local tax provision to deliver this commitment.

This amounts to £3.29 per year for policing for the average Band D household.

Mr Lane said: "The costs of providing policing services are rising. "I am keen to hear from council tax payers the level of contribution they are willing to make."

According to new data from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, Hampshire police funding levels are £47.7m below the national average, despite it being one of the largest constabularies.

Mr Lane added: "Whilst government funding continues to be worked out in the same way, our area will continue to be unfairly disadvantaged from underfunding."

To complete the survey before January 22, visit www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/budget.

Think twice before giving dogs as gifts

'A DOG is for life' is the message people in Basingstoke are being reminded of as Christmas nears.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council said the 'sad truth' is that dogs given as presents are sometimes then abandoned and left to fend for themselves or perish after the festive season.

Laura Yeates, a dog warden for the council knows this all too well, after she found a little Staffie Cross wandering on its own.

She helped rescue the dog, who she later named Ivy, and found her a permanent home after she was

housed in a rescue centre.

Cabinet member for regulatory services and the environment Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "It can be wonderful to have a new pet dog for Christmas but we would urge people to think carefully before buying a pet as a gift. They are a long-term commitment, the cost can be expensive especially when a pet is ill and needs to see a vet."

The council said it will be collecting any strays found over the Christmas period as normal, but there will be a limited returns service over the holiday period.



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Cancer centre will still go ahead

By Eva Astreimidou

A CHARITY that is working to raise £5million to build a new cancer treatment centre is not backing down after a health body abandoned plans for a new hospital.

The Ark Cancer Centre Charity is sticking to its plan of funding the new centre, having already raised more than £1.5m through various fundraising projects.

This comes after the North and West Hampshire clinical commissioning groups (CCG) decided to not go ahead with plans to build a new £140m hospital off junction 7 of the M3, which would include the new

cancer treatment centre.

Last month, the local health body announced that the plans were no longer financially viable and that it is trying to develop and focus on a better system for community-based care.

Now, charity trustee Merv Rees said that despite the U-turn in the plans, the centre can still be built but in an alternative location.

He said: "Ark Cancer Centre Charity launched in 2012 with the goal of raising £5million to help fund a much-needed unique local cancer treatment centre to serve people in the Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) area.

"Achieving that goal is as impor-

tant today as it was five years ago.

"From the outset, the aspiration has been to build the new cancer treatment centre alongside a new HHFT Critical Treatment Hospital (CTH) on the outskirts of Basingstoke.

"While the junction 7 location has been the preferred option, all involved in the cancer treatment centre project have always stated that if this does not prove to be achievable, we would proceed with exploring an alternative location, most likely on the existing Basingstoke hospital site."

He said that Alex Whitfield, chief executive of HHFT, which will provide the bulk of the funding, has said

the plans for the new centre will still go ahead. He added: "All involved in the project will now look at progressing our alternative option plans.

"We will all do our utmost to secure the best outcome for the people in the HHFT area who deserve and need, access to the best possible cancer care in the best possible environment.

"I am hopeful and confident, that significant progress will be made over the coming months and I have no doubt that Ark Cancer Centre Charity and its supporters will continue to play a key role in delivering a cancer treatment centre that will make a massive difference to the lives of many local people."

Creating jobs and homes

A HOME and garden retailer from down under has opened a new store in Basingstoke, creating more than 40 jobs.

Bunnings Warehouse was officially opened on Winchester Road on Wednesday last week, welcoming a new team, customers and even a star athlete.

To celebrate the opening, James Cracknell, British Olympic gold medalist joined a welcome breakfast for team members.

He said: "I've had a great time opening my local store here today in Basingstoke. The Bunnings team members have been very welcoming and I have no doubt the store will be a big success."

The home improvement and outdoor living retailer, which originated in Australia and New Zealand, will offer customers more than 30,000 home improvement and garden products across 84,500 sq ft.

Other services include everything from paint mixing to key cutting, a garden centre, timber cutting and in-store DIY workshops to learn a host of skills first hand.

Store manager Richard Southworth said: "All our team members have worked really hard to get the store ready for opening and have undertaken many hours of training to make sure we have the expertise to help customers with home or garden projects."



News Bites

Man arrested over illegal money lending

A SUSPECTED loan shark has been arrested in Basingstoke.

A 54-year-old man is in custody on suspicion of illegal money lending and money laundering, following an operation in west Basingstoke.

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) worked in partnership with Hampshire County Council trading standards, while Hampshire Constabulary executed a warrant at a residential property, seizing documentation and electronic devices.

The suspect is currently in custody and is being questioned by IMLT officers.

Nationally, IMLT have secured more than 380 prosecutions for illegal money lending and related activity, leading to nearly 328 years' worth of custodial sentences.

Walk off that turkey

PEOPLE who want to 'walk off' any indulgent meals from the festive period are invited to join the local 'walking for health' scheme.

The walks, which run throughout the year from various locations, will still run on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

No walk is scheduled for Christmas Day.

The programme offers a choice of two walks, a brisk-paced 60-90 minute walk, or a medium walk at 60 minutes.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yczo8uwb>.

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Pupils from Merton Junior School perform at the carol service to raise funds for the Mayor's chosen causes

Carol service boosts Mayor's charities

PEOPLE of all ages sang their hearts out in a carol service that raised £640 for charity.

Basingstoke's Mayor chooses local groups and organisations to support during his or her year in office, and this year Councillor Paul Frankum hosted a service to raise funds for his chosen causes.

Cllr Frankum said: "This year's service was a wonderful evening which involved members of the local community of all ages. I am absolutely delighted the event collection raised an amazing £642 for local groups and charities through my Mayor's charity appeal. Merry Christmas to all."

The Mayor has vowed to raise money for a Mayor's Community Chest to be able to award grants to local groups and charities to help enable his vision for 'every-one can'.

Working with Basingstoke Voluntary Action (BVA) he will award money via a grants panel.

Scout leader's bid to help out in Uganda

By Eva Astreinidou

A SCOUT leader from Basingstoke who plans to embark on a trip of a lifetime for charity needs your help to get her there.

Mary Date, who has been selected to go on a three-week trip to Uganda, hopes to help raise more than £3,200 to carry out vital community projects in the area.

Seven scout leaders, all from Basingstoke and 18 young people will be embarking on the once-in-a-lifetime trip, hoping to raise more than £80,000.

They hope to raise the funds from bucket collections, bag packing in supermarkets, car boot sales, as well as physical challenges such as Tough Mudder and the London to Brighton cycle ride.

While in Uganda they plan to paint a school, contribute to the community, buy and supply items to schools and locals, as well as sanitise a dirty well.



Scout leader Mary Date is planning to go to Uganda to help out with community projects there

Ms Date, who has taken part in Hampshire scouting for the last 14 years and travelled to Uganda in 2015, said: "The trip was a truly influential moment for me and I cannot wait to go back and see the difference that we made and see the friends that we made."

"The ability to see another culture and see how people celebrate life and what is important to them is an eye-opening experience and

truly makes me grateful for life." Hampshire Scouts send a group to the area every four years.

For the first time ever, seven scout leaders will be going from Basingstoke with other participants from Portsmouth, Basingstoke, Kent, Waterlooville and surrounding areas.

Hampshire Scouts have been helping the people in the Masindi district of Uganda since 2000, camping with local scouts and working with them to carry out their projects.

Out of the £80,000, the majority will be used to cover expedition fees, while around £5,000 will help fund the outreach projects, covering the protection of one natural water spring, the cost of redecorating a school and a budget to provide gift items to the local school and hospital.

To donate, visit <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/mary-date>.

Foster agency celebrates Ofsted

STAFF at a fostering agency in Basingstoke celebrated after they were given an Outstanding rating by Ofsted for the fourth time.

Inspectors highlighted the foster children's 'strong bonds with their carers' and the 'welcoming atmosphere' at Blue Sky Fostering.

Following an inspection during three days in October, the agency was rated as outstanding in three categories: the overall experiences and progress of children and young people, how well children

and young people are helped and protected, and the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

The report concluded that Blue Sky offers highly effective fostering services that exceed the standards of 'good' and their actions contribute to significantly improved outcomes and positive experiences for children and young people.

Blue Sky Fostering's CEO, Simon Lockyer, said: "It's all down to the dedication of everyone in Blue Sky. Our fostering families

and all my colleagues, have an incredible commitment to those in our care. Everyone's loyalty and enthusiasm is the key to helping vulnerable children and young people achieve their goals and realise their ambitions, and I'm beyond proud of our achievement."

The report also includes one recommendation, for staff to ensure that information about each child is recorded clearly and in a way which will be helpful to the child when they access their files in the future.

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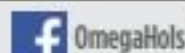
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Mentors help acorns to grow

By Eva Astreinidou

HOSPITAL employees were commended for their contribution to educating up-and-coming medical staff.

The Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust recognised its staff during the inaugural Acorn Education Awards last week.

The Trust celebrated the efforts that staff make to promote learning, whether that be students on placement, staff who have a brilliant mentor or measures that have been taken to encourage staff to take up educational opportunities.

Kordo Saeed, consultant microbiologist, picked up two awards during the ceremony at the Ark, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital.

His supportive and inspirational approach to mentoring won him Mentor/Supervisor of the Year and the final award of the event, the Director

of Medical Education Award.

Mr Saeed said: "I was ecstatic to win one award, but to win two left me speechless."

The Placement of the Year award went to Ward G2 at Basingstoke hospital, recognising the positive experience the ward creates for its students.

The Educational Team of the Year was awarded to the long-term conditions admin team, while the communications team took home the Best Patient and Public Involvement Award.

Alex Whitfield, chief executive of Hampshire Hospitals, which runs Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, said: "It's really important for us to provide all the support our staff need to grow and develop within their roles. The mentors and teams work so hard to promote learning, which is why it's so exciting to celebrate them and the fantastic work they do."



Chelsea star's backing for physio's new sports injury centre

A PHYSIO who decided to open a new sports injury centre has received ringing endorsement from Chelsea captain Gary Cahill and former Reading striker Shane Long.

Former Royals head physio Luke Anthony, from Basingstoke, has opened GoPerform in Reading, to help serve amateurs to a Premier League standard.

The new Reading-based facility, a collaboration between Mr

Anthony and soft tissue therapist Dan Buchanan, has been backed by well-known footballers.

Chelsea and England defender Cahill said: "GoPerform is a great idea. They have the same equipment, staff and knowledge as the biggest football teams in the UK so I know that local clubs, athletes and pros across a variety of sports will get access to amazing treatment."

"Premier League footballers, like

me, could be assigned here for treatment and the medical teams at our clubs would be more than happy for us to work here."

GoPerform's state-of-the-art Performance Centre will feature elite-level equipment and technology, including an anti-gravity treadmill, altitude training zone, high-tech running track and a recovery zone.

Southampton and Ireland striker Long added: "I worked with this team

at Reading FC and I would trust them with any injury or niggle. I think GoPerform will be great for the town."

Mr Anthony, who was also physio for Reading, Watford and Norwich, said: "Whether you've picked up a new injury, struggling with an old one, or you're training for an event, we can provide you with a unique support programme."

"We'll also be working with local sports clubs, schools and businesses."

News Bites

Virtual flight in store

A VIRTUAL reality experience has launched at Festival Place, inviting people to take a ride in a supercar, fly a helicopter or enjoy a paintball battle mid-shopping.

Visitors to Debenhams will be able to transport themselves to a different setting until Christmas Eve.

The idea behind the virtual reality experience is to encourage shoppers to come into store to give them a chance to try a gift experience from Activity Superstore before they buy.

VR headsets will show 360 degree footage of the gift experiences to ensure realistic snapshots.

Turkey cooking tips

BEFORE you decide to take the turkey out of the oven to serve Christmas lunch, make sure you follow this advice.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are backing advice issued by the Food Standards Agency to help people prepare and cook their turkey.

■ Take enough bags with you when Christmas food shopping, so as to separate raw and ready-to-eat foods
■ Check the defrosting time information on your turkey, this could take as much as 4 days

■ Don't wash raw turkey; it splashes germs onto your hands, clothes, utensils and worktops

■ Make sure the meat is hot throughout, there is no pink meat visible and meat juices run clear.

■ If frozen after being cooked, it can then only be reheated once

Basingstoke
Observer

Reader travel

HOTEL & TICKET PACKAGES



DIANA: HER FASHION STORY AT KENSINGTON PALACE

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, March-December 2017

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*Kids Corner -
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Pack Lane
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Pat 07500 780553

Oakridge Village
Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07391 138672

TUESDAY
Town Centre
Carnival Hall
Council Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Nikki 0779 5515235

Winklebury
Fort Hill Community School
Kenilworth Road
7.30pm
Tel: Tina 07810 147400

South Ham
Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

Overton
St Lukes Hall, Winchester Street
5.30pm
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WEDNESDAY
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Field Gate Drive
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The Harrow Way
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Kids Welcome

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PROPERTYWEEKLY

Is buying to let the ultimate retirement strategy?

A combination of factors – including the loss of most final salary pensions, a lack of confidence in some investment markets and diminishing returns from pension pots when taking a lump sum – have left many people aged between 30 and 50 concerned about their future retirement income.

As a result, many have turned to the buy-to-let market, which continues to offer far greater returns than the majority of other investment options.

Michael Cook, Lettings Director at Romans, says: "Incredibly high tenant demand and a lack of housing supply in many parts of the country has pushed rents up and provided buy-to-let investors with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a significant return.

"In addition to substantial rental income, investors will benefit from capital growth over the medium to long term. Over the last five years, house prices in the UK have risen by

By Romans Group

almost 28 per cent, which shows just how committed investors also stand to gain through capital appreciation. While not guaranteed, an increase in value is highly likely based on past performance of the market.

"All of this makes property the perfect option for those looking

ahead to their future retirement income. Landlords will benefit from a reliable and regular income stream that can be used initially to pay off a mortgage and then to fund their post-work life, while they always have the option of selling up and taking a lump sum to enjoy in later years.

For more information contact your local Romans branch on 01344 985 870



Return on investment over 10 years

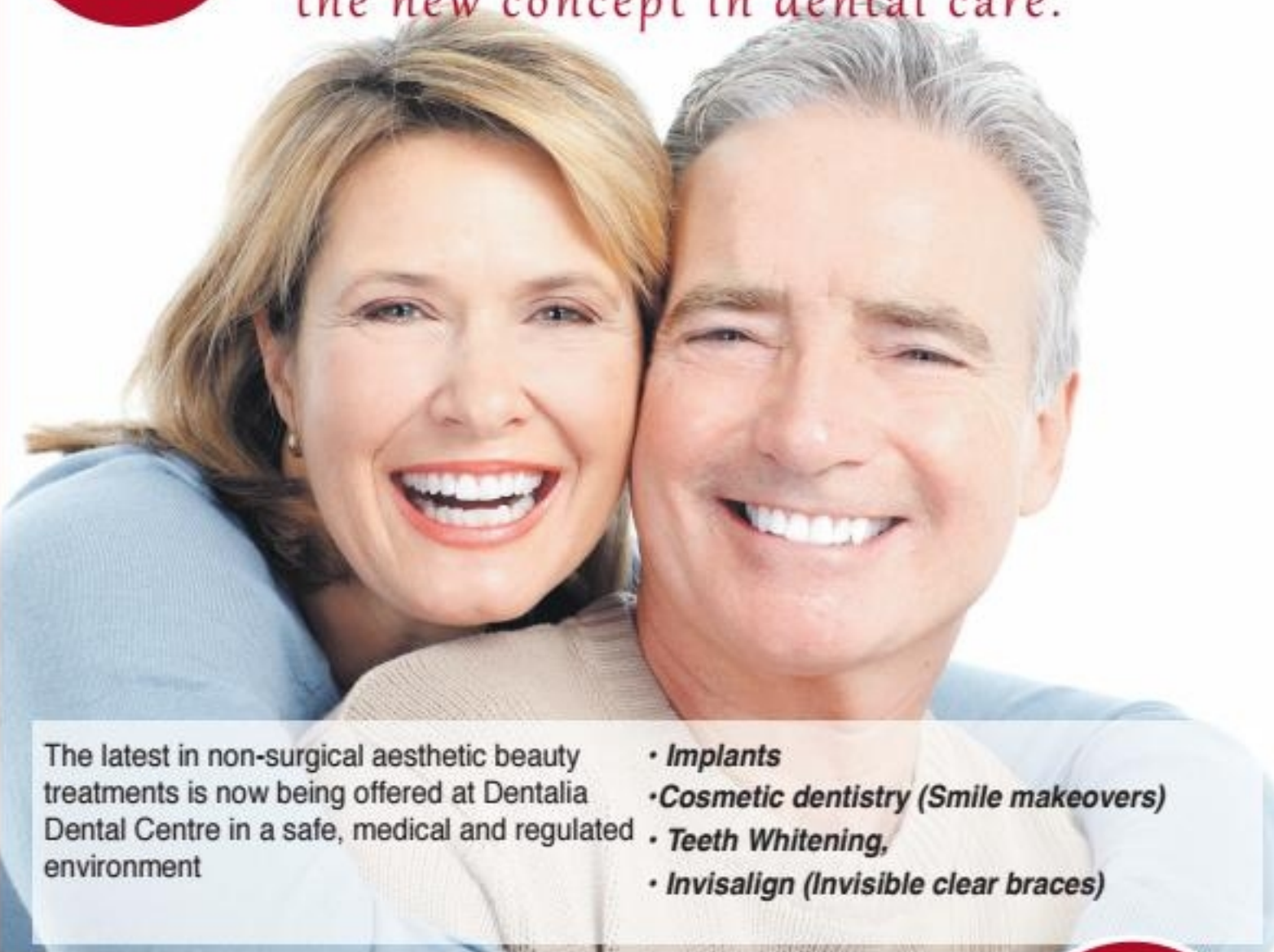


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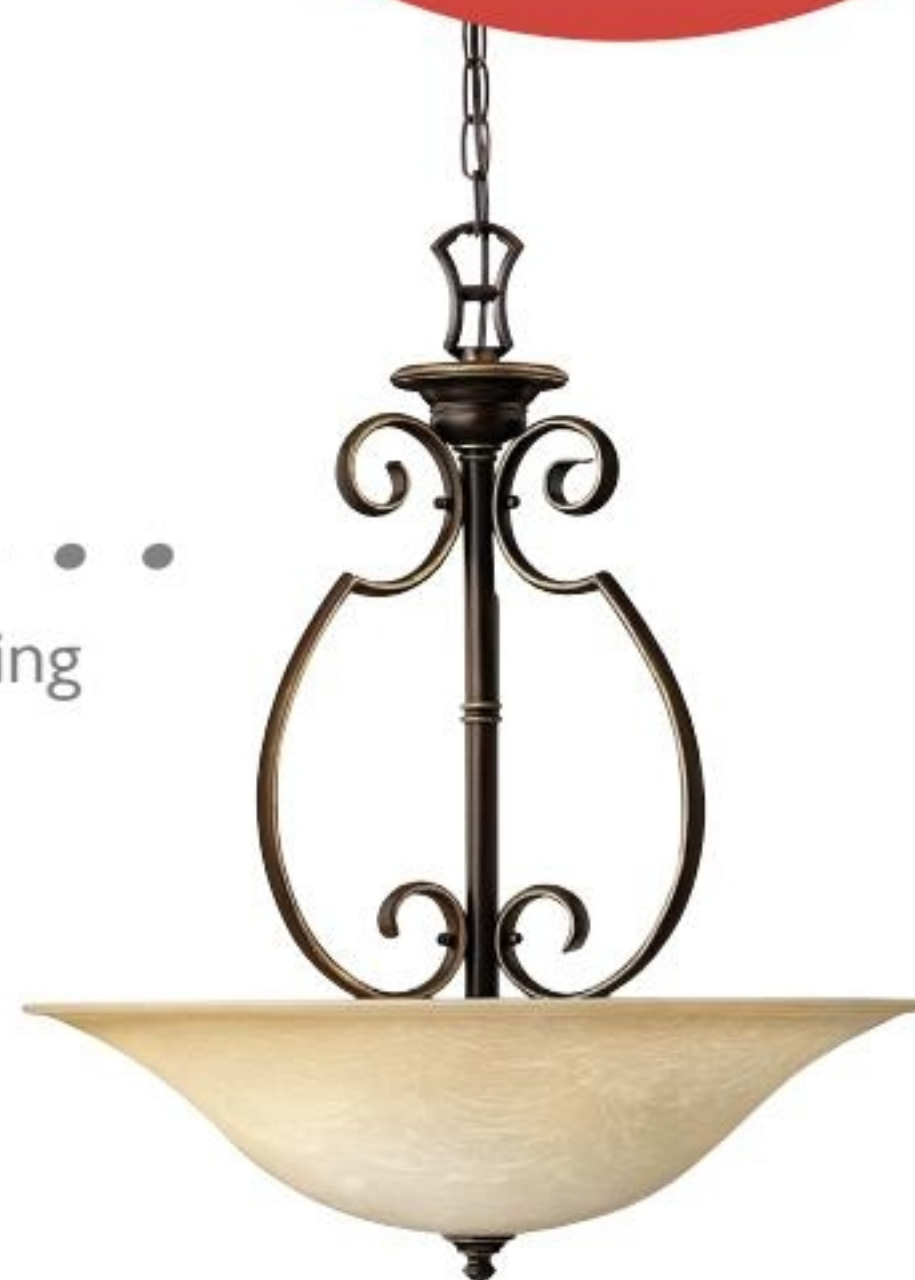
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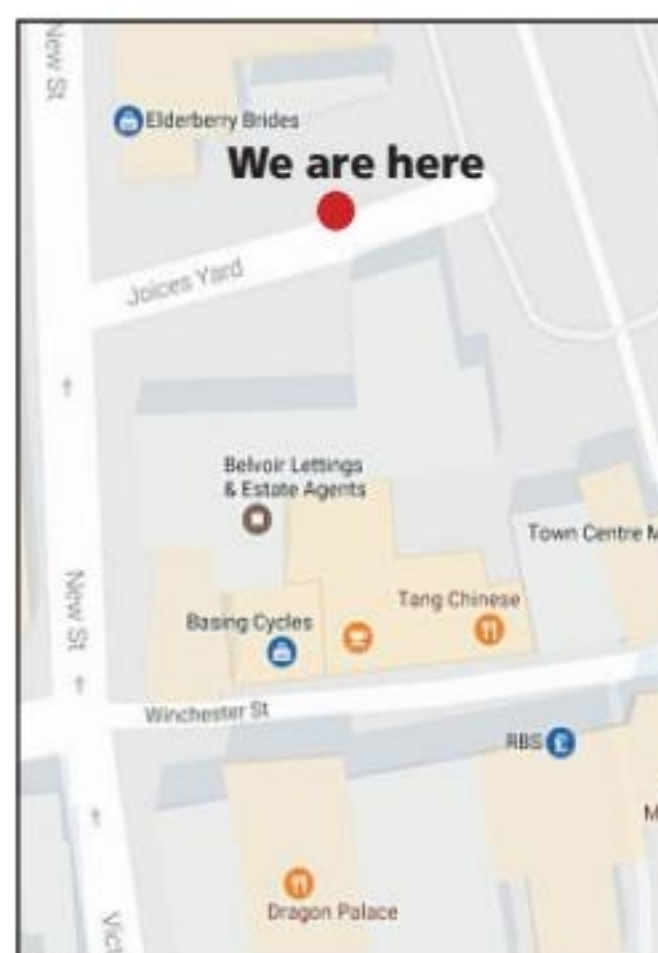
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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE



Go West and sing along to 80s hits

Join some of the biggest acts from the 80s at The Anvil in February as Go West, Nik Kershaw and Cutting Crew take to the stage with their best-known songs - you're sure to be belting them out and dancing in the aisles. See inside for more



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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Wouldn't it be good to enjoy 80s songsters?

By Josh Cox

WERE you a child of the 80s? Still have a yearning for some of your favourite hits from the era? Then you won't want to miss this.

Icons of the 80s featuring Go West, Nik Kershaw and Cutting Crew will get together in concert at The Anvil in February.

With millions of album sales and iconic hits such as *We Close Our Eyes*, *Call Me*, *King Of Wishful Thinking*, *Wouldn't It Be Good*, *The Riddle*, *I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me*, *I've Been In Love Before* and the classic *(I Just) Died In Your Arms*, this authentic 80s triple header is not to be missed.

It has been more than 30 years since Go West had their first hit single *We Close Our Eyes*. Other hits followed including *Call Me*, *Goodbye Girl* and

Don't Look Down, *Faithful* and the smash hit theme song in the film *Pretty Woman*, *King of Wishful Thinking*.

Kershaw first achieved chart success in 1984 with *Wouldn't It Be Good?*, followed by other classics such as *I Won't Let the Sun Go Down on Me* and *The Riddle*. A prolific writer for other artists, Nik also penned the number one single *The One and Only* for Chesney Hawkes.

Cutting Crew, originally formed in the mid-80s, is a Grammy nominated, Anglo-Canadian rock band who will always be remembered for their classic song *(I Just) Died In Your Arms*, which helped define the musical sounds of the club scene during the 80s and is still played widely today.

Over 20 years later and millions of album sales on, original singer/songwriter Nick Van Eede has signed new recording publishing deals and is back on the road promoting his new material.

Cutting Crew will be performing their smash hit from the 80s *I Just Died in Your Arms Tonight*



Icons of the 80s will be on stage at The Anvil on February 10 at 7.30pm. Full price tickets cost £36.50 which includes a £2 booking fee.

For more information or to book tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244 or visit anvilarts.org.uk.

Cooking up covers

MUSIC: Solo artist Chris Baker is back at The Bolton Arms in Old Basing on Saturday delivering a night of 70s, 80s and 90s covers.

His repertoire includes The Killers, George Michael, Green Day, Robbie Williams, Spandau Ballet, and more.

Free entry from 9pm till midnight.

It's nearly here...

SHOW: How Many Sleeps 'til Christmas, presented by Proteus Theatre Company is at The Creation Space in Eastleigh this weekend.

Bring the little ones to meet a colourful host of characters in this interactive show as they lead you on a magical journey.

There are various performance times and tickets are £8.

Gotta' have faith

MUSIC: A George Michael tribute act will be at The Academy, Basingstoke this Saturday from 7pm.

You can enjoy this very popular tribute act as he performs many of George's hits from through the decades.

Tickets are £10 in advance, or £12 on the door and free entry for members.

You'll be Hook-ed on Peter Pan

By Robin Strapp

THIS year the Anvil will 'hook' you from the start in this family friendly panto because Peter Pan has flown into Basingstoke.

Writer Julian Lane has kept true to JM Barrie's original story. The colourful sets and costumes with striking projections set the scene for a magical production.

Jessica Punch is excellent as Peter, the boy determined not to grow up and quickly won the support of the youngsters who were eager to join his gang.

He flies into the Darling's home in London and persuades Wendy, the charming Jenny Huxley-Golden and John - played on the day I saw it by Joe Hubbard-Bateman and Michael (George Vidler) to join him in an adventure to visit Neverland, "second star to the right and straight on till morning".

The flying scene over the streets of London was most impressive and had the youngsters in the audience gasping with delight.

Andrew Agnew of CBeebies Balamory returns to Basingstoke playing the amiable Smee and also inventively directs the show. He obviously relishes his role and has a warmth and instant rapport with the audience.

He also has the entire groan making jokes that had both the adults and

youngsters chuckling although when one of his gags failed he told us, "I wasn't born in Basingstoke but I'm dying here". It was that sort of show.

Always protecting Peter is Tinkerbell (Helen Petrovna) the roller-skating fairy with attitude as she becomes jealous of Wendy and she sings well.

Every panto needs a baddie and Gary Turner is a powerful evil Captain Hook who richly deserved all the boos from the audience but sought his revenge on us with water pistols that simply grew larger and larger.

He is ably assisted by his motley crew of the Jolly Roger (Andy Rothwell, Jack Horner and Tristan Crabtree) who also perform a hilarious and skilful acrobatic act.

Sarah Louise Day was the up beat sassy Mermaid with a cockney accent who entertained us at the magic pool and Laura Harrison as Tiger Lily captured by the pirates was finally rescued by Peter.

The stand out highlight was Peter soaring through the audience flying to the back of the circle whilst performing somersaults - breathtaking!

With a spirited musical score of songs under the direction of Martyn Cooper this is a highflying panto that's an ideal way to celebrate the festive season.



Electrifying show

MUSIC: MoneyShock, a Berkshire/Hampshire based covers band will be performing at Laarsons in Basingstoke on Saturday.

Their music spans a few genres, including, rock, pop, blues, soul and jazz and they perform songs from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s.

This free gig starts at 8pm.

New Year's Eve bash

MUSIC: The rock covers band Force Ten will be playing a special New Year's Eve gig at The Swan in Sherborne St John.

They will cover songs from the likes of Radiohead, Lenny Kravitz, ZZ Top, The Black Keys and AC/DC.

There is no entry fee and the band will play from 9pm.

Away to Neverland

PANTOMIME: Peter Pan opened at The Anvil last week and will run until Sunday 7 January at various times.

Ideal for the whole family, this cast of panto performers have turned the delightful story of Peter Pan into a festive pantomime with all the gimmicks you'd expect.

Tickets range from £19 to £27 with discounts available for under 16s and concessions.

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Your weekly puzzle challenge

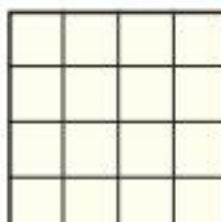
21	25	3	11	5	7	10	1		9	25	8	15
25		10		1		10		20		1		23
25	2	2	16	23	13	13		8	18	11	19	6
19		14		14		4		11		14		24
	23	10	14	11	4		4	9	1	23	15	10
14				9	21	10	10	17		24		18
1	23	19	5		25	1	10		13	11	4	5
23		23		4	3	23	24	15				4
9	1	11	4	11	4		4	13	23	26	10	
10		13		18		22		10		23		1
19	13	8	17	10		11	18	2	8	13	14	10
8		1		3		18		14		10		13
13	11	10	8		10	12	15	10	1	5	13	6

1	2	3	S 4	5	6	7	8	9	10	I 11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	M 24	25	26

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

SPOT THE SHOWPIECE

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.



Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

	8			1	2	6		4
	9	7	4					2
2	1		6	7	5			
	7				9	4	2	6
9		5	8		4	3	1	
						5	9	
	4	6						
		8			1	2		9
3	2						4	1

3				7				
		6			1			2
		4		8			6	
		5				2		3
1	9				7	5		
			4					
		8	9					1
	4				3			
	7			6			2	

EQUALISER

$\begin{array}{cc} 10 & 4 \\ 14 \bigcirc 2 & \bigcirc 2 \\ 2 & 2 \\ 4 \bigcirc 2 & \bigcirc 4 \\ 4 & 4 \end{array}$

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to www.puzzledrome.com

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SOLUTIONS

(1) Across – Juror; India; Yurts.
Down – Juicy; Radar; Heaps.

(2) Across – Vegas; Rats; Easel.
Down – Verse; Gifts; Nasal.

NONAGRAM:

acid; acrid; add; adorn; adroit; amodic;
ard; arid; card; canid; card; carcio;
carotid; codal; cord; croid; cario;
dario; darn; dart; diatonic; dicit;
dictar; dimar; dirt; dirt; dot; drin;
drac; droic; idiot; INDIcATOR; indic;
ordian; pad; radon; raid; ranoed; rand;
ind; road; rood; romado; trad; thad;
thadic; trod;

FIVE ALIVE:

(1) Across – Battle of Gettysburg; 7 Canada; 8 Arabesque;
ombidge; 6 Battle of Gettysburg; 7 Canada; 8 Arabesque;

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:

Across – 1 Buttercup; 6 Egg; 8 Going straight; 9 Celia; 10 Fatigue;
11 Astute; 13 Landau; 16 Keenest; 18 Chair; 20 Metaphysician; 22
Nile; 23 Lancaster.

Down – 1 Beg; 2 Will; 3 Engraver; 4 Cut off; 5 Plant; 6 Engaged; 7
On the turn; 9 Clockman; 12 Trester; 14 Ascribe; 15 Slayer; 17
Epel; 19 Alibi; 21 Net.

QUICK CROSSWORD:

Across – 2 Homely; 7 Area; 8 Exam; 9 Lasagne; 10 Gull; 12 Flow;
15 Flour; 17 Simpley; 18 Rooster; 19 In a row; 21 Pierce; 22 Drain; 23
Grow; 26 Clot; 28 Handful; 29 Oso; 30 Ugly; 31 Achieve.

Down – 1 Urdu; 2 Hall; 3 Wisely; 4 Wigout; 5 Reet; 6 Sago; 10
Gaspign; 11 Linade; 13 Literal; 14 Weared; 15 Flood; 16 Robin;
20 Wrench; 21 Pitter; 24 Rose; 25 Whole; 26 Clue; 27 Ogla;

Quiz Challenge

1. What was classical composer Beethoven's first name?
2. Who did Harriet Harman succeed as deputy leader of the Labour Party in 2007?
3. The great saphenous is the longest what in the human body?
4. What CF is another term for shell shock, a reaction of some soldiers to the trauma of battle?
5. In which English city would you find Addenbrooke's Hospital?
6. Pickett's Charge was a defining moment of which battle of the American Civil War?
7. In which country was All Saints singer Nicole Appleton born in 1974?
8. What position in ballet is also the title of a 1966 film thriller starring Gregory Peck and Sophia Loren?
9. In which country are the cities Varna and Burgas?
10. The Titanic ocean-liner visited which French port on its maiden voyage?

R	I	C
A	D	O
T	I	N

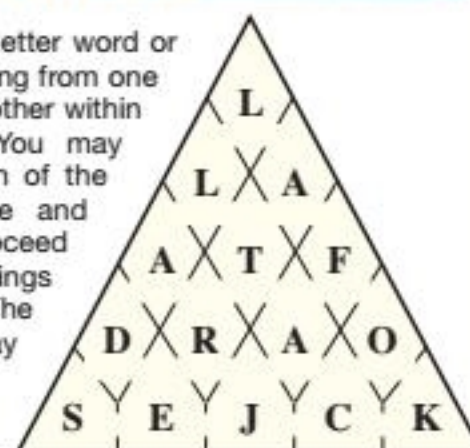
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
26 Good; 31 Very Good;
36 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

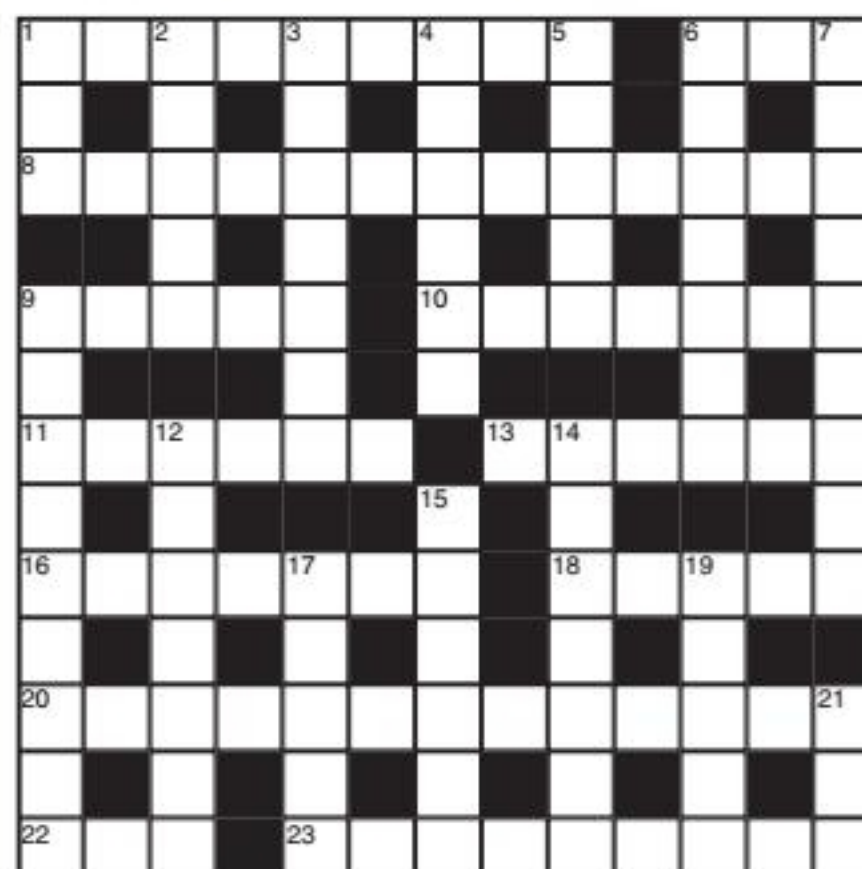
Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.



FIVE ALIVE

JV	EU	GR	OA	RN
UE		AI		AE
RI	AN	FD	IT	SA
SC		AT		AP
EY	UA	RS	TE	LS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

- **CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**

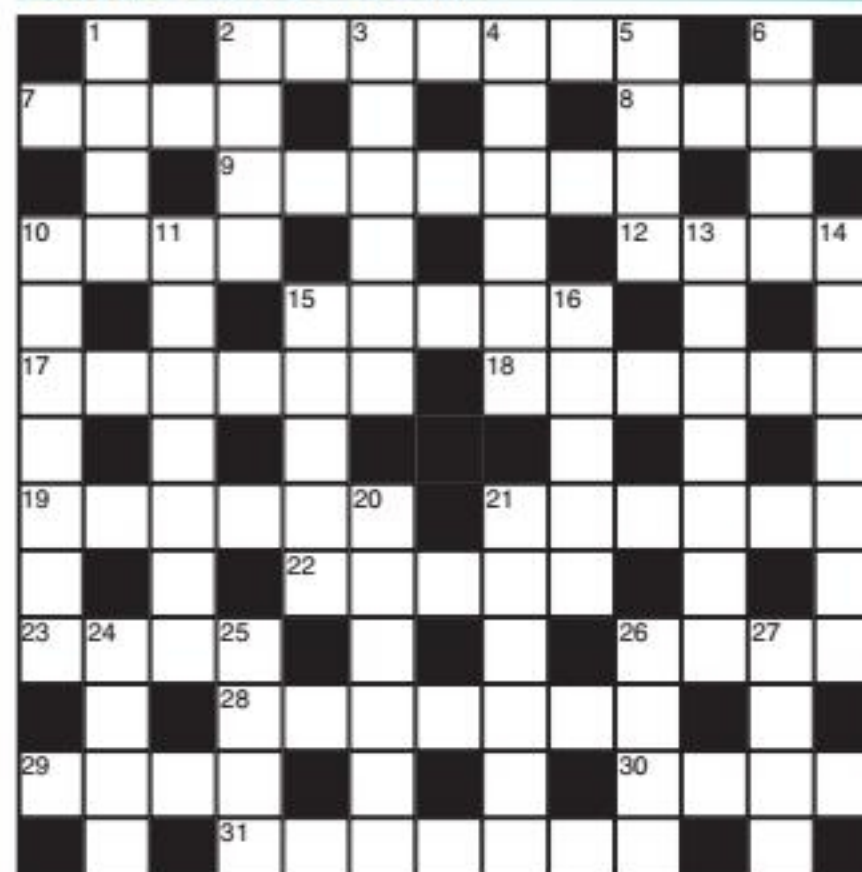
ACROSS

1. Flower which wins a prize at the dairy show? (9)
6. Say nothing for conceit (3)
8. Not turning to crime? (5,8)
9. Another girl replaced Alice (5)
10. Military duty causes tiredness (7)
11. Shrewd union leader in disorganised state (6)
13. Transport found in lowland Austria (6)
16. Most eager to be having the best sight (7)
18. Tea in a series of shops (5)
20. Philosopher encountered a doctor (13)
22. Born of woman (3)
23. Thief unusually silent going round the bend (9)

DOWN

1. Being not in, ask earnestly (3)
2. It will shortly be a woven fabric (5)
3. Implant engineer on floating logs (7)
4. Exclude copper, a well-dressed person (3,3)
5. Design the first factory (5)
6. Busy and soon to be married (7)
7. About to go off round the corner (2,3,4)
9. Burglar – or comedian? (9)
12. Rewrite letters of support (7)
14. Attribute to an ancient writer (7)
15. One who is not going, the persistent sort (6)
17. Banish former Portuguese leader with the Spanish (5)
19. Plea put forward by one after dodging bail (5)
21. It is clear a number turned up (3)

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. Nevertheless (7)
7. Region (4)
8. Test (4)
9. Pasta dish (7)
10. Seabird (4)
12. Glide smoothly (4)
15. Ground wheat (5)
17. Merely (6)
18. Duty schedule (6)
19. Lined up (2,1,3)
21. Penetrate (6)
22. Waste pipe (5)
23. Developed (4)
26. Lump of earth (4)

28. Small number (7)
29. Norwegian capital (4)
30. Frightful (4)
31. Accomplish (7)
DOWN
1. Pakistani language (4)
2. Foyer (4)
3. Sagaciously (6)
4. Energy (6)
5. Coral ridge (4)
6. Starchy cereal (4)
10. Breathing in gulps (7)

11. Fizzy drink (7)
13. Word for word (7)
14. Missile payload (7)
15. Deluge (5)
16. Red-breasted bird (5)
20. Sprain (6)
21. Nonsense (6)
24. English national flower (4)
25. Command to stop (4)
26. Hint (4)
27. Eye lecherously (4)

DOWN

9 Bulgaria; 10 Cherbourg.

Competition

WIN tickets to the awe-inspiring Cirque du Soleil: OVO

Closing date: Friday, January 5, 2018

Cirque du Soleil returns to the iconic Royal Albert Hall from 7 January 2018 with never before seen in the UK show, OVO!

Immerse yourself in a colourful

carnival of crazy crickets, amazing ants and flexible fleas, teeming with joy, amazement and mind-blowing signature Cirque du Soleil acts. Rush headlong into an ecosystem teeming

with life, where insects work, eat, crawl, flutter, play, fight and love.

Crawling with fun, OVO is a non-stop riot of energy and movement featuring many of Cirque du Soleil's

show-stopping performers including a stunning 14m high flying trapeze act – the biggest of its kind!

An unforgettable experience - Don't miss your chance to experience the

world-famous Cirque du Soleil at such an iconic London venue.

Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP. Limited season 7 January – 4 March 2018.

sought after production at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 27th February 2018 at 7.30pm.

There are 3x pairs of tickets to be won. To be in with a chance of winning answer the following question:

Q: Which animal kingdom does OVO explore? Reptiles, Mammals, Insects or Fish?

Prize tickets are Price Level 2-3 and are valid for Tuesday 27th February 2018 7.30pm performance only, strictly subject to availability. All prize tickets will be supplied as e-tickets and are non-transferable. No cash alternative is available. Travel is not included.

Win a pair of tickets!

We have teamed up with Cirque du Soleil to offer our readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to see this highly

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to

www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk

For full terms & conditions go to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk/about-us




For more information visit: www.cirquedusoleil.com/ovo

Sunday December 24th - Christmas Eve

	BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
TOP TV	2.20pm Monsters University 	8.00pm Christmas University Challenge 2017 	5.50pm A Christmas Chase: Celebrity Special 	5.55pm The Snowman and the Snowdog 	6.00pm Agatha Christie's Crooked House 
MORNING	7.25am Match of the Day 9.05am Planes 10.30am The Santa Clause	7.00am An Island Parish 7.30am The Prince and Me 9.15am The Big Family Cooking Showdown 10.15am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites 11.45am Mary Berry's Absolute Christmas Favourites	8.10am Horrid Henry 8.25am Make it Pop 8.55am Scrambled! 9.25am Save Money: Good Food 9.55am Jack Frost 11.50am Catchphrase	7.00am Rugrats in Paris: The Movie 8.15am The Big Bang Theory 9.05am Jamie's Quick and Easy Food 9.40am Christmas Brunch	8.20am Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.35am Nella the Princess Knight 8.55am Digby Dragon 9.05am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.20am Gone with the Wind
AFTERNOON	12.00pm Life in the Snow 1.00pm BBC News 1.15pm Songs of Praise 1.45pm The Farmer's Llamas 2.15pm Hammy's Boomerang Adventure 2.20pm Monsters University 3.55pm Doodlebugs 4.10pm Home 5.35pm BBC News 5.50pm Regional News & weather	12.20pm The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas 1.20pm Alex Polizzi's Perfect Christmas 2.20pm Cheetahs 3.20pm Guys and Dolls 5.45pm Carols from King's	12.45pm ITV News 12.55pm Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets 4.00pm Cannonball Christmas Special 5.00pm You've Been Framed! 5.30pm Regional News and Weather 5.35pm ITV News 5.50pm A Christmas Chase: Celebrity Special	12.40pm Paul Hollywood 1.10pm Jamie's Italian Christmas 2.10pm The Simpsons 3.35pm The Borrowers 5.20pm The Snowman 5.55pm The Snowman and the Snowdog	1.35pm Oklahoma! 4.15pm Scrooge
EVENING	6.00pm Countryfile 7.00pm Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You 8.00pm EastEnders 8.30pm Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show 9.35pm Not Going Out 10.15pm BBC News 10.25pm Weather 10.30pm The Vicar of Dibley 11.15pm The Two Ronnies Sketchbook 11.45pm Midnight Mass From Leeds Cathedral 1.00am Great Expectations	7.00pm Dad's Army 8.00pm Christmas University Challenge 2017 8.30pm Winter's Weirdest Events 9.30pm The Great Gatsby 11.55pm Christmas TOTP2 Special 1.25am Whitney "Can I be Me" 3.05am Holby City 4.05am This is BBC Two 6.10am The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas	6.40pm All Star Musicals 8.30pm Maigret in Montmartre 10.25pm ITV News 10.45pm A Night for the Emergency Services 11.45pm Christmas Carols on ITV 12.45am Casino Royale 3.00am ITV Nightscreen 5.00am The Aquabats! Super Show! 5.25am Make it Pop 5.45am Mr. Bean 6.00am Sooty 6.10am Oddbods 6.15am Om Nom Stories	6.20pm Channel 4 News 6.30pm The Muppet Christmas Carol 8.00pm Child Genius v Celebrities Christmas Special 9.00pm Gogglebox 2017 11.05pm The Inbetweeners 1.35am Man Down 2.00am The Last Leg Christmas Special 2.55am The Crystal Maze 3.50am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 4.40am Location, Location, Location 5.35am Four in a Bed 6.00am Rugrats Go Wild	6.00pm Agatha Christie's Crooked House 8.00pm The Yorkshire Vet 9.00pm Andre Rieu: My Life in Music 10.20pm Andre Rieu: Christmas in London 11.30pm An Audience with Donny and Marie 12.35am Lip Sync Battle UK 1.00am Super Casino 3.05am Love/Hate 4.00am My Mum's Hotter Than Me! 4.50am House Doctor 5.15am Access

Monday December 25th - Christmas Day

	BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
TOP TV	3.00pm The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 	4.30pm Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th Birthday 	3.10pm Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban 	2.30pm The Alternative Christmas Message 	6.00pm Elf: The Musical 
MORNING	9.00am Snow Queen 9.45am Go Jetters 10.00am Christmas Morning From All Saints Fulham 11.00am The Madagascar Penguins In A Christmas Caper 11.10am Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale	7.10am An Island Parish 7.40am Bee Movie 9.00am The Big Family Cooking Showdown 10.00am Harry Potter: A History of Magic 11.00am Carols from King's	7.05am Horrid Henry 7.30am Scrambled! 9.25am National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 11.10am Mr Bean's Holiday	7.20am The Bear 7.45am Prep and Landing 8.40am Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas 9.05am The Simpsons 11.05am Dr. Seuss' the Lorax	8.00am Digby Dragon 8.15am Shimmer and Shine 8.30am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.50am Mofy 8.55am Scrooge 11.05am Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
AFTERNOON	12.10pm BBC News 12.20pm Top of the Pops 1.20pm Toy Story 3 3.00pm The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 3.10pm Cinderella 4.45pm The Highway Rat 5.15pm BBC News 5.25pm Weather 5.30pm Doctor Who	12.15pm The Importance of Being Earnest 1.40pm BBC Proms 2017 4.30pm Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th Birthday 5.30pm The Queen's Christmas Broadcast 5.35pm The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show 1977	12.50pm Santa Claus 3.00pm HM the Queen 3.10pm Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban 5.50pm Emmerdale	12.45pm The Snowman 1.20pm The Snowman and the Snowdog 1.55pm Father Christmas 2.25pm Channel 4 News 2.30pm The Alternative Christmas Message 2.35pm Scrooged 4.30pm Dumbo 5.50pm Home Alone	1.05pm Singin' in the Rain 3.10pm Oliver!
EVENING	6.30pm Strictly Come Dancing 7.40pm Call the Midwife 9.00pm EastEnders 10.00pm Mrs. Brown's Boys 10.35pm 300 Years of French and Saunders 11.25pm BBC News 11.35pm Weather 11.40pm On Christmas Night 11.45pm Have I Got a Bit More 12.30am Darcey Bussell 1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead 1.35am BBC News	6.45pm Winter's Weirdest Events 7.45pm Dad's Army 8.25pm Upstart Crow 9.00pm Sir Tom Jones and Beverley Knight's Gospel Christmas 10.00pm Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage 11.05pm Mrs. Henderson Presents 12.45am My Week with Marilyn 2.15am This is BBC Two 6.15am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	6.50pm ITV Evening News 7.00pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs 8.00pm Coronation Street 9.00pm Victoria 11.00pm ITV News 11.15pm The Holiday 1.45am The Dam Busters 3.50am ITV Nightscreen 6.00am Sooty 6.10am Oddbods 6.15am Om Nom Stories 6.20am Share a Story 6.25am Almost Naked Animals	7.40pm The Great Christmas Bake Off 9.00pm First Dates at Christmas 10.00pm Alan Carr's Christmas Chatty Man 12.00am George Michael 1.40am George Michael 2.45am The Crystal Maze 3.40am Location, Location, Location 4.35am Four in a Bed 5.00am Kirstie's Handmade Christmas 5.20am Moomins on the Riviera 6.40am Song of the Sea	6.00pm Elf: The Musical 9.00pm The Morecambe and Wise Story: Look Back in Laughter 10.55pm Britain's Best Loved Double Acts 12.05am Steptoe and Son 1.45am Super Casino 3.05am Love/Hate 4.00am Now That's Funny! 4.45am House Doctor 5.10am HouseBusters 5.35am Wildlife SOS 6.00am Puffin Rock 6.05am Poppy Cat 6.20am Simon

Tuesday December 26th - Boxing Day

	BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
TOP TV	1.45pm Stick Man 	5.35pm Matthew Bourne's Cinderella 	3.30pm E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial 	6.00pm Back to the Future 	4.10pm Sandringham: The Queen at Christmas 
MORNING	9.00am Tinker Bell and the Legend of Neverbeast 10.10am Planes: Fire and Rescue 11.25am Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You	7.45am Chimpanzee 8.55am The Big Family Cooking Showdown 9.55am Nadiya's British Food Adventure 10.55am The Sweet Makers: A Tudor Treat 11.55am A Hard Day's Night	7.05am Horrid Henry 7.20am Wishart 7.30am Scrambled! 9.25am Ferris Bueller's Day Off 11.25am Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore	8.25am Short Circuit 10.25am The Simpsons	8.50am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10am Mofy 9.15am Access 9.20am Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 9.55am Titanic 11.50am Matinee: Chariots of Fire
AFTERNOON	12.25pm BBC News 12.35pm Regional News 12.40pm Weather 12.45pm Judi Dench: My Passion for Trees 1.45pm Stick Man 2.10pm Shaun the Sheep Movie 3.30pm Doodlebugs 3.45pm Mary Poppins	1.20pm The Eagle Has Landed 3.30pm The Repair Shop at Christmas 4.30pm Final Score 5.35pm Matthew Bourne's Cinderella	1.00pm ITV Racing: Live from Kempton 3.30pm E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial 5.50pm ITV Evening News	12.10pm Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel 1.55pm Channel 4 News 2.00pm Child Genius v Celebrities Christmas Special 3.05pm The Great Christmas Bake Off 4.20pm The Little Mermaid	2.10pm Balmoral: A Hidden History 4.10pm Sandringham: The Queen at Christmas 5.20pm A Royal Night Out
EVENING	6.00pm BBC News 6.20pm Regional News 6.25pm Weather 6.30pm Snow Bears 7.30pm EastEnders 8.00pm Little Women 9.00pm The Miniaturist 10.30pm BBC News 10.45pm Match of the Day 12.15am Girls Behind Bars: Stacey Dooley in the USA 1.15am Weather for the Week Ahead 1.20am BBC News 6.00am Breakfast	7.30pm Christmas University Challenge 2017 8.00pm Reindeer Family and Me 9.00pm Dragons' Den 10.00pm QI 10.30pm Two Doors Down 11.00pm Joanna and Jennifer: Absolutely Champs 12.00am Saturday Night Fever - The Ultimate Disco Movie 1.10am Sir Tom Jones and Beverley Knight's Gospel Christmas 2.10am Inside the Christmas Factory 3.10am Blue Planet II	6.10pm Emmerdale 6.40pm Jurassic World 9.00pm Coronation Street 10.00pm ITV News 10.15pm Birds of a Feather 11.15pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show 11.45pm Al Murray's Make Christmas Great Again 12.45am Jackpot247 3.00am Tenable 3.50am ITV Nightscreen 5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show 6.00am Sooty	6.00pm Back to the Future 8.00pm Travel Man 9.00pm Big Fat Quiz of the Year 11.10pm Four Weddings and a Funeral 1.20am The Inbetweeners 3.10am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 4.00am Location, Location, Location 4.55am Kirstie's Handmade Christmas 5.10am Moshi Monsters: The Movie 6.40am Short Circuit 2	7.00pm The Strictly Story: Fake Tan, Tangos and a Ten From Len 8.30pm Dirty Dancing: Making Movie Magic 10.00pm Dirty Dancing 12.00am Football on 5 12.55am Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights 1.45am Super Casino 3.05am Love/Hate 4.00am Now That's Funny! 4.45am House Doctor 5.10am HouseBusters 5.35am Wildlife SOS

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Abarth 695 Biposto Record 1.4 T-jet 190hp

Fun to drive and with seasonal bells on

By Tony Yates

I HAVE owned an Abarth 595 for about two years now – and as it was starting to show its age a little, I thought I would go out and buy the newer version because to be honest I really don't want to buy anything else when the little Abarth suits me just fine – also for the simple reason that it happens to be one of the best small cars money can buy.

So when Fiat offered me a test in the Special Edition 695 Biposto Record – I thought 'oh god it's going to be a track-focused car that's brilliant and nothing like my standard Abarth'.

Well I am happy to report it's just as much fun to drive as my standard Abarth, but the 695 has the 'bells on it'.

So, here is a quick rundown of what you can expect from a limited run of just 133 examples.

Power & efficiency

The little 695 is powered by a 1.4 T-Jet engine that has 190hp. Top speed comes in around 143mph and a 0-62 time of 5.9sec. Plus, a large amount of torque,



You won't be disappointed if you decide to invest in an Abarth 695 – if you can get one

250Nm of it actually. Of course, this being the 695 – means it is one step away from being a full blown race car – well almost!

You don't get a rear windscreen wiper, or radio, or air-conditioning, or rear seats. OK, it's a stripped back track-focused car, I get that – but come on – I'm amazed they managed to find the time to fit in a passenger seat if I'm

being totally honest.

Then again, that aside, it's still totally epic in every way. Fuel consumption – well that's the best and most pleasing part here. On a combined cycle it returned around 45mpg – I'm not joking either – the little Abarth just sips away saving you bundles of cash until you press the loud pedal really hard – then it all goes totally bonkers.

On the road

I will keep it simple here; the 695 is the perfect car to scoot about in – because it's poised thanks to front and rear suspension with hydraulic adjustment and racing springs – all by Extreme Shox. Yes, the ride is like a rock – but how it pins itself to the road is just stunning – which is why you will always have a big smile on your face whenever you drive it.

Design & technology

So, being the stripped out version – what do you actually get?

Exterior: Modena Yellow Exterior colour with Anthracite trim and exclusive '695 Record Badge', front suspension with hydraulic height-adjustment with racing engine springs by Extreme Shox, rear suspension with hydraulic adjustment with racing springs by Extreme Shox, four-piston aluminium fixed brake calipers by Brembo, mechanical slip differential, self-ventilated oversized 305x28mm perforated front brake discs, 240x11

mm perforated rear brake discs, high performance front brake pads, Lightened 18" alloy wheels with 215/35 (18") tyres by O.Z, rear bumper with carbon fibre spoiler, oversized roof spoiler, front intercooler with racing configuration, oval trumpet airbox by BMC, dual-stage exhaust with twin titanium tailpipes by Akrapovic.

Interior: 695 Biposto Record badge with unique serial number, leather and Alcantara sports seats with carbon shell by Sabelt, sporty aluminium pedal kit with titanium finish, 7" TFT colour display instrument panel with 695 Record logo animation, leather steering wheel, Internal rear titanium 3-bar roll-over cage by Poggipolini, light-weight racing front and rear door panels.

To sum up

If you remember the good old days of a proper Mini and want to rekindle the art of having fun while driving, then pop down to your local Abarth dealer and order a 695. I promise you will not be disappointed – unless they are all sold out! Price from: £36,665



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Bison charge to top of league

By George Welch

BASINGSTOKE Bison sit proudly at the league summit for the first time this season following a 1-0 overtime win at Milton Keynes Thunder.

The Herd have been in scintillating form this campaign and were able to take their perch at the top when they won Saturday's game in hand.

Forward Dan Davies was the hero as he netted the winner just 14 seconds into overtime following a tense and goalless hour of normal play.

'Stoke also had goalie Dean Skinns to thank as the defensive rock recorded his 12th Bison shutout, thwarting all 17 shots he faced.

The away side, whose boss Doug Sheppard was away in Canada, weren't at their best - but to claim all the points in those circumstances exemplifies the grit and determination of a title-winning side.

Bison captain Aaron Connolly said: "I think we came out of the blocks pretty quick but as the game went on

I think our frustrations got the better of us.

"It wasn't our best game by any means but we found a way to do what needed to be done and it certainly wouldn't have been possible without Deano [netminder Dean Skinns] standing on his head for us once again and keeping us in that game.

"We have a lot more to give and we know that but good teams always find a way to win even when it's not their night and that's exactly what we did."

Bison, missing Joe Baird and Josh Smith on GB Under 20s duty, created several chances, hitting the post and bar more than once - but Thunder were worthy of their point.

The hosts forced Skinns into 17 saves, with Tom Carlon posing the Buckinghamshire side's biggest threat.

But neither side could force a winner in regulation time so into overtime it went.

Overtime didn't last long however as Roman Malinik forced a turnover



Bison players can't contain their overtime win. Picture: grantkingphotography.com

and got the puck to the front of the net where Davies tapped in to the open target to end the game after 14

extra seconds.

Bison host Bracknell Bees (14th) on Saturday.

Sport Bites

Better luck next year

ICE HOCKEY: Basingstoke Buffalo have to wait until next year to get their points tally to double figures after their fourth successive defeat on Sunday.

The Buffs remain on nine points after 13 games having lost 8-4 at home to Bracknell Hornets.

'Stoke took the lead on nine minutes through standout player Paul Petts who enjoyed a hat-trick.

It mattered little however, as Bracknell ran riot with six goals in the middle and last periods.

Buffalo next play on January 6 when they visit Haringey Huskies.

Ladies drop down

FOOTBALL: Basingstoke Town Ladies dropped to the bottom of the league after losing 6-3 in an entertaining home defeat to St Nicholas Ladies on Sunday.

Town twice took the lead early on through Shannon King and Lianne Hill and a third from Charlotte Hull gave them a two-goal cushion 10 minutes before half time.

But a hat-trick from Rhian Robbins (35, 76 & 82 minutes), a brace from Adele Hooper (10 & 72) and a Sophie Sweet (62) strike completed the comeback as St Nicholas leapfrogged their hosts.

Cavella miss chance

FOOTBALL: Tadley Cavella missed the chance to claim top spot in Wessex Division One after failing to beat table-toppers Christchurch.

The promotion chasers moved up to second after the goalless home draw.

Whitchurch United enjoyed a more successful afternoon, beating Hythe & Diddon 3-1 at Longmeadow. The win moved United up a place to 13th.

Tadley and Whitchurch were due to play each other last night (Wednesday), after we went to press.

Can Tigers roar back?

RUGBY: Tadley Tigers slipped two places to sixth after losing their last game of the calendar year 27-20 at home to Chesham.

The defeat was a difficult blow as their visitors and Wheatley overtook them in the BBO Premier division.

The Tigers are next in action when they visit Hungerford on January 13.

There was no Christmas miracle for Basingstoke in the London 3 South West division as they lost their 12th game in a row, a humiliating 70-7 loss at home to Portsmouth.

Row fall short against tough opposition in FA Trophy



Rowan Vine's first minute shot for Hartley Wintney was saved well by Bromley's keeper
Picture: Edmund Boyden

HARTLEY Wintney's battling performance against Bromley in the Build-base FA Trophy First Round Proper was not enough to see them through to the next stage as they crashed to a 2-0 defeat on Saturday.

The Row fought hard against the side 67 league places above them but two goals in the second half from Josh Rees and George Porter knocked the Hampshire side out of this year's competition.

But the score remained level at the break as neither team could capitalise on their chances with former Football

League striker Rowan Vine coming closest for the hosts when his first-minute shot was saved by Bromley's David Gregory in goal.

A 25-yard strike from Rees 15 minutes from time and a back-post tap in from Porter shortly after was enough to secure victory for the south east London club.

Bromley manager Neil Smith was full of praise for Hartley after the game, describing the Row as a "fantastic footballing side".

Speaking to BFCTV after the game, he said: "I think we actually gave them

too much respect, we let them dominate us.

"It's been publicised that it's the biggest game in their history, and we had to match it, but I don't think we got out of the traps until the second half.

"Fair play to them, they had obviously done their homework on us, but I thought Luke Wanadio coming on gave us a little bit of pace and directness."

Hartley were due to be back in league action away to Uxbridge as we went to press on Tuesday night.

Rose hails dream way to finish the year

JUSTIN Rose praised a "dream week" after ending the year on a high by winning the Indonesian Masters, his third victory of the year and the first time he has completed a treble since 2002.

It was all too easy for a dominant Rose, who eased to victory by eight shots on 29-under par in the Asian Tour's final competition of the year in Jakarta.

The north Hampshire golfer seemed to have more of a battle with the weather than the course.

Play was delayed on Friday and Saturday due to multiple weather interruptions, forcing world No. 6 Rose to complete his third round on Sunday morning, carding a round of 66.

The former Tynley Park and Hartley Wintney golf club member carded a 10-under par 62 in the final round the same day to record the dominant eight-stroke victory.

Rose's dominance was epitomised by the 31 birdies and eagle he sank on the way to his third tournament win in six weeks.

He said: "It is my last event of the season, to finish the year on a good note and still have a couple of weeks to enjoy this win over Christmas and New Year is really nice too.

"The largest winning margin for me in a tournament, to come here with my game in good shape, have to deal with bad weather and jet lag and stay focused on all four rounds, is something that I am really pleased about.

"I have had a dream week and I have played incredible golf."



Hats off to Justin Rose for his third win in six competitions. Picture: Asian Tour

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Inside: Row narrowly miss out against tough opposition | Emphatic victory for Rose in Indonesia | Buffalo continue to struggle

Five-star show from Sam helps Dragons roar to stunning win

By George Welch

SUPER Sam Argent scored five times as Basingstoke Town's wretched away record came to an abrupt end at bottom club Dunstable Town.

The deadly Dragons hit their hapless hosts for six in a resounding 6-0 hammering on Saturday.

The last time 'Stoke played the Southern League Premier Division's bottom side they won 8-0 at Gosport.

This time around it was Dunstable, who have now lost their last 11 matches, who were the wrong end of the thrashing.

And it was Argent who got Town up and running within the opening 10 minutes.

The big striker dusted himself off after being brought down in the area to slot home a penalty kick.

'Stoke's advantage was doubled on 21 minutes when a Sam Smart through ball released Argent, who beat the goalkeeper one-on-one.

The visitors dominated up to the interval but were unable to increase their lead. Jack McKnight went closest but could only smash a shot off the underside of the bar.

However, Terry Brown's side netted a further four times in the second period to ensure they picked up just their second win on the road this season.

There was no evidence of the seem-



Goal hero Sam Argent

ingly chronic travel sickness that has plagued Town's season so far.

Indeed, Argent provided the remedy, firing in a second half hat-trick.

It was, however, George Bennett to get the third goal seven minutes after the break and put the game beyond struggling Dunstable.

Argent had to wait until the 63rd minutes for his treble, converting a Tim Wolhfiel cross.

Callum Bunting and McKnight both went close before the imperious Argent netted his fourth and fifth in the final five minutes to cap a memorable afternoon.

There was no time for a double hat-trick but Basingstoke eased to their first away win since August, a run that stretched 10 games.

The Dragons travelled to Wales on Tuesday, after we went to press, to take on Merthyr Town.

They face back-to-back home games over Christmas, hosting Royston on December 23 and welcoming Gosport to the Camrose on Boxing Day.



Dan Davies just beats Milton Keynes Thunder netminder Tom Annetts to the puck to score the winning goal. Picture: grantkingphotography.com

Bison top of the tree for Christmas

An overtime Dan Davies winner ensured Basingstoke Bison head into the festive period top of NIHL 2. The forward struck 14 seconds into the extra period to secure the points

against Milton Keynes Thunder as the Herd leapfrogged Peterborough Phantoms to the summit of the division. The 1-0 win extended Basingstoke's

winning run to three games but they will need to maintain their momentum if they want to extend their one point advantage at the top. See inside for full match report.

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